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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eau Claire is 17th in Wisconsin – Annual Health Rankings Report

Eau Claire, WI – March 20, 2013–The fourth annual County Health Rankings has been released showing that Eau Claire County in 2013 ranks 17th in health outcomes (how healthy we are) and 13th in health factors (how healthy can we be). The Rankings provide a snapshot of how every county in the nation is doing. Eau Claire County measures related to excessive drinking, access to healthy foods, and density of fast food restaurants are of concern and need continued improvement.

Published online at www.countyhealthrankings.org, the *Rankings* help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live. The *Rankings* look at a variety of measures that affect health such as the rate of people dying before age 75, high school graduation rates, unemployment, limited access to healthy foods, air pollution levels, income, and rates of smoking, obesity and teen births. Based on data available for each county, the *Rankings* are unique in their ability to measure the overall health of each county in all 50 states on the many factors that influence health, and they have been used to garner support among government agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, business leaders, policymakers, and the public for local health improvement initiatives.

Eau Claire is fortunate that we have already done much to work collaboratively to improve health. On March 14th over 90 community members gathered to look at comprehensive community health data and determined that there were three health topics where we need to focus our collaborative prevention efforts: Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Abuse, and Chronic Disease. On April 4th, the community is invited to help plan how we will move these priorities forward. Working together we expect to continually improve our community's health. To register for the event, go to tinyurl.com/ec-community-health

If you want more information on the report, please go to: www.countyhealthrankings.org
For more information on joining community health improvement efforts in Eau Claire County, contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, 715.839.4718.

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